

February 26, 1956

Dr. Albert Sabin
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Sabin:

Handwritten notes:
added to Sabin's list
of references on polio
virus

I just wanted to tell you that I found the conference most interesting and to thank you for your good offices in my invitation to it. Despite the inevitable wrangling over details, there was an obvious appreciation in which I share for the scope and quality of the work that was reported. I would not have thought that so much could be done with poliovirus, and if some of the later suggestions became quite adventurous, it was because it began to look as if the technical barriers, in the right hands, were not so important.

I was particularly pleased at your indicated intention to follow up the possibilities of recombination between poliovirus and other viruses. It would be possible to continue the selection studies you outlined, and to make some improvements in design with the benefits of hindsight, but the recombination trials, and efforts to rationalize our understanding of neurotropicism, seem much more straightforward approaches. If you have time to do so, I would be very grateful for a line on how these experiments come out.

There will, I know, be a transcript in due course, but I would like to summarize one suggestion that was rather hastily offered. Matthews and Smith, in *Advances in Virus Research*, III, summarize some developments in virus chemotherapy including the incorporation of base analogues into RNA and DNA. In the *E. coli* B-T2 system, the extent of this incorporation (and hence of inactivation of the virus) may depend on the rate of virus growth. If so, agents such as azaguanine might be exploited for a selective system that would favor slower-growing variants vis-a-vis a given cell type. I realize the amount of preliminary work that might be needed to set it up, and don't know the extent of existing studies with poliovirus in relation to these particular agents.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg